

Met with Diane Kirkpatrick of Health Canada about her staff's unethically rationalized compliance with the ongoing, horrific, preventable abuse, by physicians, of persons with central nervous system problems caused by environmental sensitivities.

She accepted that environmental sensitivities affect the central nervous system, that there are several mechanisms by which these reactions can occur, that these problems have always existed, that patients are not being informed of this possibility or being screened out of the general psychiatric population with methods recommended by various authorities over the years, that we can deduce with a high degree of certainty that these patients are having things done to them which cause damages, and that there are attitude problems in the medical community.

However, when I indicated the logical consequences of what was happening, that if one applies U.S. figures to the Canadian situation one can deduce that there is about one suicide per day of people with sensitivities, and that these suicides represent the tip of an iceberg of ongoing horrific abuse, she started to equivocate on the points she had acknowledged earlier in the meeting, and indicated that she would not address, even within the department, the issue of ongoing abuse, by physicians, of persons with this disability. While she had previously acknowledged that there were serious attitude problems in the medical community about sensitivities, she now stated that the reason she couldn't act to stop the abuse of this group was that many physicians don't acknowledge the problem!

Ms Kirkpatrick is one of several persons in Health Canada who have agreed with all the premises, but when the logical consequences are pointed out, equivocate on what they have previously agreed with in so as to avoid acknowledging the true horror of what is happening, what they and the Department are compliant with. While public servants run and hide, apparently simply afraid to confront our abusers, people with sensitivities continue to experience ongoing abuse.

Ms Kirkpatrick indicated that she believes the appropriate route is through education. I indicated that when you have clear evidence of ongoing abuse of persons with this disability, in official reports and consumer protest including suicides, you do not restrict your efforts to educating the medical community, you act to stop people from being abused - by breaking the silence about their abuse.

Future efforts will attempt to get Ms Kirkpatrick and her colleagues to understand that, for example, when a woman down the street is assaulted by her husband on a regular basis, it is not appropriate for professionals to restrict their efforts to general education about family violence. One must intervene and stop the assaults. In our case, as in spousal violence, it is appropriate to break the silence about the abuse, and not to rationalize it (as spousal violence was rationalized, for years) with the position that the abusers, doctors, disagree (when significant numbers of them are also concerned). Health Canada, apparently out of cowardice, has accepted the mindset of our abusers.

After thirty years of organized consumer protest about the abuse, during decades of broken homes, increased disability, personal and financial damages, thousands of suicides, letters from the CHRC, Departmental workshops designed to address attitudes, more work will have to be done before Health Canada officials will break the silence about the ongoing abuse of persons with sensitivities. (H.C. has moved back ten years in the five years since Perrin Beatty was Minister.)

cc Health Canada lists 1-6
Liberal MPs
Liberal Senators